



Tuesday, August 17 at 5:00 PM

Dear Holy Name High School Families,

Next week (the week of August 23) begins the 2021-2022 school year for our students, with each class coming in on their respective orientation date. After a summer that we hope was filled with fun and relaxation, the faculty, staff, and administration look forward to welcoming everyone back to campus. The months ahead hold much promise; there are games, activities, educational opportunities, and more for students to experience and enjoy. We plan to offer a robust, in-person schedule of events this fall and beyond.

However, as we prepare to start the year off on the right foot, and anticipate the good that is to come, we also must acknowledge the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and recent rise in Ohio case numbers. I appreciate every email and phone call that has come in this summer asking about our forthcoming policies. The articles and comments sent in were reviewed and noted, while also doing our own research and taking into consideration the many recommendations made by the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

With that said, I write to you today to share that, after reviewing the best science-based information available, everyone – regardless of vaccination status – will be required to wear a facial covering while at Holy Name. This policy goes into effect as of tomorrow, Wednesday, August 17, and includes all students, faculty members, staff members, and visitors. As was the policy last year, gaiters will not be permitted. Everyone needs to wear a cotton, or medical grade, mask that features straps for the ears and can fully cover the nose, mouth, and chin.

Please know this decision was made after much prayer and consideration. It is safe to say this is not how any of us, myself included, envisioned beginning this school year when we started our summer break. However, we want to help ensure students can experience in-person learning, five days a week, for the whole year, just as we successfully did in 2020-2021.

Attached is a guide that further articulates Holy Name's COVID Policies and Procedures to begin the school year. This includes information on not only masking, but also hand hygiene, social distancing, cleaning, ventilation, and quarantining.

I strongly encourage you to review this guide with your student before he/she arrives on campus. Other than the important information about masking, I point out, below, two very critical pieces of information. The first will hopefully illustrate further why we have decided to make masking a requirement immediately.

1. Many of our students experienced several days of quarantine last year due to COVID-19 exposure. Based on the guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Health, **quarantining during the 2021-2022 school year is NOT necessary for students and/or adults exposed to COVID-19 in the school setting – regardless of vaccination status – if ALL involved**



students/adults were wearing masks at the time of exposure. By having this mask policy in place, we anticipate this will alleviate the need for large groups of students to quarantine and miss class time. Keep in mind that synchronous, at-home learning is not an option this year.

Additionally, if a student/adult at Holy Name is exposed to COVID-19 while a mask is not being worn (for example, at an athletic contest), quarantining will NOT be required for those who are fully vaccinated, as long as the individual remains asymptomatic and continues to wear a mask while indoors.

2. Those students (and staff members) who have been fully vaccinated are asked to show proof of vaccination by September 2, 2021. A copy of the vaccination card can be brought in to the Main Office; or, the Main Office staff can make a copy of the card if a student brings it to school. The vaccination status of members of the school community is considered confidential medical information and will be protected as such. Please know that although a COVID-19 vaccination is not required by the Diocese of Cleveland or Holy Name High School, the CDC, ODH, and CCBH recommend everyone age 12 and over be vaccinated.

Thank you for reading this letter, and for reviewing the attached document. In the days ahead, I promise we will be constantly evaluating the most current public health data and recommendations. Protocols and policies may change. When that time comes, I will make sure updates are communicated to students and families as quickly as possible.

I have faith that our school community will come together to do what is best for the common good, and we will get through this time stronger than ever. If you have any questions about these policies, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Karen Carter
Principal



HOLY NAME HIGH SCHOOL'S COVID POLICIES and PROTOCOLS to start the 2021-2022 School Year

Thanks to the incredible cooperation and work of all staff, students, parents and families, in 2020-2021 Holy Name High School successfully completed a full year of in-person learning, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking forward to doing the same as we begin the 2021-2022 school year.

We continue to base our decisions in battling COVID-19 on the scientific and medical information provided to us by the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH), the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospital. In our constant attempt to prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially the Delta variant at this time, the following mitigation strategies will be in place. **These mitigation strategies are listed in order of importance:**

#1 Masking

- All students, faculty and staff, regardless of vaccination status, must wear appropriate face coverings throughout the day.
- N95 masks are not required. Gaiters are not permitted.

#2 Hand Hygiene

- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building and in every classroom.
- Students will be expected to use hand sanitizer as soon as they enter a classroom, the LMC, before and after lunch, before and after using the restroom, etc.

#3 Social Distancing

- Three feet is optimal whenever possible. However, as medical and scientific professionals have indicated some distancing, when combined with masking, can definitely aid in prevention.

#4 Surface Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Bathrooms and other common areas (e.g. hand railings) will be cleaned throughout the day. Classrooms, including desktops, will be more thoroughly cleaned after school.

#5 Ventilation

- Classroom doors and windows will be kept open with ceiling fans on.
- Portable air purifiers** are being purchased and will be placed in each classroom, all offices, restrooms, locker-rooms, the Fitness Center, the cafeteria, and the Library Media Center.

These strategies, when used together, create a robust plan of safety. They provide the Holy Name Community with multiple layers of protection and, when persistently applied, strengthen our efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially the Delta variant.



Masking

- Once again, all students, faculty and staff, regardless of vaccination status, must wear appropriate face coverings throughout the day.
- N95 masks are not required. Gaiters are not permitted.
- Holy Name is recommending that each student has two masks with him/her daily in case a student loses or misplaces one mask. This allows a student to always have a back-up mask.
 - Holy Name will have disposable masks for purchase if a student does forget his/her mask. Cost will be \$1.00.
- Masks purchased by students must be appropriate for the Catholic school environment. They cannot include political statements, foul language, or inappropriate images. The Administration has the final say in determining if a mask is appropriate to wear at school or not.
- Students must mask when riding a bus to school, for an athletic contest, or for a field trip.

Arrival/Departure

- **The school building will not be open to students until 7:00am.
- **If a student arrives before his/her homeroom teacher opens homeroom, (7:35am) students can go to their locker but will then go to the cafeteria and be as socially distant as possible.
- **All students must be picked up by 4:00pm. If a student needs to wait for a ride, the student will wait in the cafeteria.
- **The school will be closed to students after 4:00pm with the exception being students attending extra-curricular activities under the direct supervision of a teacher, coach or moderator.

Hallways/Stairwells (Signs will be posted throughout the building.)

- **Traffic on the EAST and WEST stairwells is DOWN only.
- **Traffic on the 2R stairwell is UP only.
- **The MAIN, center stairwell will be UP only.

Lockers

- **Each student will be assigned his/her own school locker.
- **Students will be able to go to their locker three times each day: before homeroom, on their way to lunch, or after school.

Social Distancing Markers

- **Social distancing markers will be placed on the ground:
 - in the cafeteria,
 - in and near the Main Office, and
 - outside the bathrooms in the Sacred Heart Foyer.
- **Again, students and staff will do their best to socially distance when reasonably possible.

Lunch Periods

- **During each lunch period, students are assigned to eat in the cafeteria.
- **Seniors will be able to eat outside, weather permitting, continuing that Senior tradition.



**Students, of course, will not be masking while eating or drinking. However, masks should be on when done eating or drinking and when walking around to purchase food or drinks, to use a microwave, or to use the restroom.

Water Bottles

****Water fountains** should be avoided. Students and staff members are encouraged to bring their own bottles of water for use during the school day.

**Students will only be permitted to use water fountains to re-fill their own water bottles.

**Students are allowed to bring water only; not soda, sports drinks, juice, etc.

Students Are Encouraged to Bring Their Own Device to School

**This allows each student to have control over his/her own device. Each student will be responsible for the cleaning of his/her personal device.

**If a student is going to sign out a school-owned device for the day, the student and parent must sign and return the document entitled “Electronic Device Loan Agreement”. The device will be signed out from the LMC in the morning and returned to the LMC at the end of the school day.

**Students who sign out a device will assist in its disinfection when returning it at the end of the school day using alcohol or cleaning wipes provided by the school.

Health and Safety Measures

Students, teachers and staff will **self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms, and any other illnesses, before arriving on campus each day.

- If a student or a staff member has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, he/she should remain at home.

**HN’s school nurse will have ready access to thermometers to screen students as necessary.

- If a student or a staff member has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher during the school day, he/she will need to go home as soon as possible.

**If a student or staff member demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms while at school, he/she will be isolated in a separate room. That potential positive case will be sent home ASAP.

**If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, he/she will follow standard isolation procedures as dictated by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Mrs. Carter, principal, will continue to serve as the COVID-19 liaison for Holy Name High School.

Quarantining

Quarantining is not necessary for students and adults exposed to COVID-19 in the school setting, regardless of vaccination status, **IF ALL STUDENTS/STAFF ARE WEARING MASKS.

If exposed to COVID-19 when a mask is not being worn (ex. when attending an athletic practice or game), quarantining is not necessary for **FULLY VACCINATED students and adults as long as the individual is asymptomatic and continues to wear a mask when indoors, in the school building.



Proof of Vaccination for COVID-19

- **Although vaccinations for COVID-19 are not required in the Diocese of Cleveland, nor at Holy Name High School, vaccination is the leading public health strategy available to slow the spread and hopefully put an end to this disease. We strongly encourage families to consult with your health care provider regarding vaccination decisions.
- **For those who have already been vaccinated (including both students and staff), **please provide proof of vaccination by September 2, 2021.** Students may bring their vaccination card to the Main Office beginning August 18th; the first day of schedule pickup. A copy of the vaccination card will be made with the original being returned to the student immediately. The copy of the vaccination card will be placed in the student's permanent file.
- **After 9/2/21, once a student receives both dosages of a particular vaccine, we require the student to bring in his/her vaccination card to show proof. A copy of the vaccination card will be made with the original being returned to the student immediately. The copy of the vaccination card will be placed in the student's permanent file.
- **Proof of vaccination is necessary when helping to determine who would need to quarantine when coming into close contact with a positive COVID-19 case.

The vaccination status of members of the school community, including school staff and students, is considered confidential medical information and will be protected as such.

Distance Learning/E-Learning/Synchronous Learning Will Not Be Provided

- **If a student does test positive for COVID-19 and must isolate, he/she will be provided with textbooks, assignments, etc. much like he/she would receive if absent from school due to illness, vacation, etc. prior to the implementation of Synchronous Learning last school year. **However, this year, Synchronous Learning is no longer an option.**
- **If a student must quarantine because of coming into contact with a positive case (i.e. at home, work, in a social setting, etc.), the above policy will again be used; in other words, he/she will be provided with textbooks, assignments, etc. much like he/she would do if absent from school due to illness, vacation, etc.